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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1915.

WEN-WORTH LIBERALS.

The Liberals of the County of Wentworth are invited to be present at a meeting of the Reform Association in the Liberal Club room, James street north, this city, to-morrow afternoon at 2 p.m., when Mr. H. M. Mowat, K.C., will deliver an address. Mr. Mowat is a prominent Ontario Liberal, a eloquent speaker, and will deal with the practical politics of the day and should have a large audience. We do not know what other business will be brought before the meeting, but there is a strong impression abroad that the Dominion Government intends appealing to the country some time this year, perhaps in June. That impression is growing stronger every day, in view of this, the Returns of Wentworth should not go in time in preparing for the fray. The Government would like to snatch a verdict from the people on the question of the war, leaving their general record out of sight. The Liberals of Wentworth may soon have the chance of returning one of themselves to Parliament.

NOTES ON THE WAR NEWS.

The news from the war zone to date of most interest to Hamiltonians is the announcement that the Canadians are in the trenches in front of the enemy and that they have behaved splendidly, capturing some trenches while they got the baptism of fire. We hope that they may always distinguish themselves, and that Canada will be proud of them and that before the war is over they will cover themselves with glory. But we must make up our minds that there will also be a Canadian "honor role," and we must be prepared for that—prepared for sacrifice.

This war has made quite a revolution in the attitude of the British and Britons. Few may decide it has been the British's policy to keep Russia out of Constantinople. More than once England has stepped in and prevented the Magyarites from getting foot in Istanbul. Diesel, in his time, buried the idea of a British fleet in the Black sea, but to the men of that generation no farther, and Britain has allowed the Sultan and expansion from Europe. To-day, however, the scene has changed. Last night in the Imperial Parliament, it was announced that Britain had no objection to Russia occupying the Turkish Empire. This is the first time in history that Britain has given its consent to another power occupying a portion of the empire. The news that the allied fleet had shelled the outer fort in the Dardanelles. This does not mean that the road is cleared to Constantinople, for this sheet of water is infested, and the inner forts, as well as those at Constantinople have yet to be reduced before the capital can be taken. But for the first time, the very fact that the fleet has bombardé the fort is an evidence that the British and French commanders believe that they can hammer their way through the Dardanelles to Constantinople.

The United States has a perfect right to make demands or requests on the belligerents, either with a view to have the war nations give up their claim to the war, or with a view to expedite the commerce and business of that country. They have strongly complained that the operations of the belligerents have hurt American business, and their second notes to them are of a similar character. Both Great Britain and France have reluctantly "agreed" to withdraw their forces from the open seas." Great Britain has been asked to permit the importation of foodstuffs into Germany for non-combatants under the supervision of agents of the United States. Germany has agreed to let the United States merchant vessels by submarine.

As to mine laying, Great Britain is not the aggressor. At the opening of the war Germany began to strike mines all over the North Sea, and she has continued that policy ever since, and has many times threatened to extend her raids on the British coast. Britain refused to do so until she was compelled to do so in self-defence, and then within well-defined limits, where neutral vessels would not be endangered.

Sir Edward Grey has already done much to diffuse what would be presented to the Germans from us, but the statements intended for non-combatants for the arm, and if the United States can show her how it can be done, she may consent to do so, in case she does not proclaim a blockade of the German coast. However, Britain could well afford to continue the war against the United States, did Germany do the same.

McKinley indulged in a nasty bit of flag-dropping when he charged the Americans with being traitors.

THE GERMANS IN CHINA.

There has been a good deal written about the Japanese invasion of China and on what has been hinted that Japan was asking too much, so that there was danger of an open rupture between them. It was alleged that Japan was trying to get into Manchuria, and it was said that both the United States and Great Britain were negotiating with the Mikado Government over the question. But some special correspondents from Shanghai, China, by mail, put a different complexion on the matter. It seems that the Germans have been doing a great deal in Manchuria, fighting against Japan, and the allies, with a view to embroil China and Japan over the war. It is said that when the European war broke out Chinese statesmen were told by the German agents in China, of whom there were many, that as far as the belligerents were concerned, Japan would endeavor to fasten its grip more strongly on China. In consequence, preparations for defense were rushed and did not escape the notice of the Japanese. In about six months China would have an army equipped with modern weapons, and a chance of success in the activities of her neighbors which long had tried to protect a province over China. So the Japanese waited no longer; it is declared, believing the time to strike was now. With the fairly efficient railway police—something like the railroad police of our northwest—as a nucleus, the Germans and German-taught Chinese entered into the driving of a railroad. A few Polish officers did much to teach organization to the Chinese, and the best equipment was purchased. The infantry has Mausers and the artillery the latest in field pieces. The young men of the best families have taken to the ranks, and the old men, who are dandies, and carots are being trained in complete military schools to take their places as officers.

It is pointed out that when Japan began to clear the German out of Shantung Province, China, three years ago, every obstacle to Japan's way, in fact, did everything but demand that the Germans be driven out of the country. The Germans did, and German-taught Chinese entered into the driving of a railroad. A few Polish officers did much to teach organization to the Chinese, and the best equipment was purchased. The infantry has Mausers and the artillery the latest in field pieces. The young men of the best families have taken to the ranks, and the old men, who are dandies, and carots are being trained in complete military schools to take their places as officers.

While the Motherland is still to come to the rescue of the Chinese, the world outside is not.

2. China's secret treaties during the war with the German Embassy, cutting off a nation's communication with mines, and railroad routes, so that when peace is finally signed, Germany would be in full control of the port of industry, transportation and commerce in the great empire of China.

Ever since Japan's entry into the war, German officers have been in full control of the Chinese army. The plan was to drive the German troops across the Yellow River, cutting off a nation's communication with mines, and railroad routes, so that when peace is finally signed, Germany would be in full control of the port of industry, transportation and commerce in the great empire of China.

There are the facts as seen from the Japanese point of view. Germany has allied herself with the "yellow peril" just as she did with the "unshakable Turk." In an effort to stir up strife between the Chinese and those nations, but now that the war has been won, she is up to it again. Her name to name with Russia in Manchuria, Britain in Hong Kong, and Japan where she is, Germany cannot have much chance of making such out of a Chinese alliance.

A Foreign Press received to-day that the outlook for adjustment of all differences has distinctly improved.

The Japanese Government has given indications which are regarded as definite that it was not prepared to give up the upper hand of general demands which it presented.

These include the chief points upon which the Japanese insisted in their representations from Tokio. The principal demands which Japan is making are that the German government should do the following for the present:

1. Japan shall police jointly important places in China, in case policy advisers are employed.

2. China shall purchase from Japan all the iron and steel required for its construction of military, naval and financial matters, and if such advisers are employed, Japan shall be present.

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